

Torquay Education Authority.

YEAR 1917.

TENTH

Annual Report



ON THE

MEDICAL INSPECTION

OF

SCHOOL CHILDREN

INCLUDING THE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S

CARE COMMITTEE.



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*To the Chairman and Members of the Borough of Torquay
Education Authority.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you the 10th Annual Report on the Medical Inspection and Treatment of Elementary School Children in the Borough. I have consequently considered it desirable to place before you a statement showing what has been accomplished during that period, and what benefit has accrued from this work, also that defects found are followed up and remedied.

MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

The number of children examined each year was as follows :—

1908	864	consisting of Entrants and Leavers.				
1909	1123	„	„	„	and 7 year old groups	
1910	1493	„	„	„	7 year & 10 year „	
1911	1354	„	„	„	„	„
1912	1592	„	„	„	„	„
1913	1648	„	„	„	„	„
1914	1278	„	„	„	and Intermediate „	
1915	1329	„	„	„	„	„
1916	1256	„	„	„	„	„
1917	1446	„	„	„	„	„

It will be seen that since the war started there has been no relaxation in the Medical Inspection.

HEIGHTS AND WEIGHTS.

I have analysed the average heights and weights of the Torquay children in the various schools for the past three years, my object being to discover what effect environment had on their physique. In considering these figures, it is necessary to bear in mind that the number of children examined is small in comparison with those from which Greenwood's average are based, so that an exceptional child in any age period may alter the average. On comparing the averages of all our schools, we find that at almost all the age periods our children are below the average height of the Country, yet they are above the weight average. This indicates a small amount of mal-nutrition. An examination of the weight figures for the various schools does not reveal any decided advantage of one set of children over the other.

NUTRITION.

Year.	ENTRANTS.		LEAVERS.		INTERMEDIATES.	
	Satisf.	Unsatisf.	Satisf.	Unsatisf.	Satisf.	Unsatisf.
1914	92.0%	8.0%	91.9%	8.1%	82.92%	17.08%
1915	95.97	4.03	96.06	3.04	92.79	7.21
1916	96.07	3.93	95.75	4.25	93.5	6.5
1917	94.4	5.6	95.36	4.64	82.91	17.09

This table shows the percentage of children examined whose nutrition is satisfactory and those who are otherwise. Probably the reason for reduction in 1915 from that of 1914 may be the different standard of observers. I am afraid, however, that the increase of those whose nutrition is unsatisfactory in 1917 must be due, in some measure, to our food restrictions, more especially to the lack of sugar and fats in the diet of the children.

CLOTHING AND FOOTGEAR.

Year.	ENTRANTS.		LEAVERS.		INTERMEDIATES.	
	Satisf.	Unsatisf.	Satisf.	Unsatisf.	Satisf.	Unsatisf.
1914	99.2%	.8%	99.6%	.4%	98.0%	1.6%
1915	100.	—	100.	—	98.86	1.14
1916	99.44	.56	99.29	.71	98.65	1.35
1917	99.72	.56	99.35	1.3	99.51	.97

This table does not show any great excess of defective clothing, etc.

CLEANLINESS OF HEAD.

The following table shows, in a very unmistakable way, the effect of the constant supervision of the children's heads, and gives ground for hope, that a time may come when the education of the future mothers will have reached such a pitch, that such a condition may be a rarity among the children.

1908	30.54%	Children found with nits or pediculi		
1909	23.55	„	„	„
1910	15.82	„	„	„
1911	14.99	„	„	„
1912	13.88	„	„	„
1913	13.70	„	„	„
1914	12.60	„	„	„
1915	9.25	„	„	„
1916	6.0	„	„	„
1917	7.0	„	„	„

The following table shows the percentage of nits and vermin in the various categories during the last four years.

Year.	ENTRANTS.			LEAVERS.			INTERMEDIATES.		
	Clean.	Nits.	Verm.	Clean.	Nits.	Verm.	Clean.	Nits.	Verm.
1914	89.8	7.87	2.33	87.0	10.9	2.1	84.6	11.6	3.8
1915	92.3	7.7	—	88.77	11.23	—	90.3	9.7	—
1916	94.57	5.43	—	94.30	5.40	.30	91.87	7.86	.27
1917	94.4	5.2	.4	94.07	5.67	.26	92.6	7.4	—

The following table shows similarly the percentage with unclean bodies.

Year	ENTRANTS			LEAVERS			INTERMEDIATES		
	Clean.	Dirty.	Verm.	Clean.	Dirty.	Verm.	Clean.	Dirty.	Verm.
1914	92.55	.21	1.24	94.15	1.64	4.21	98.4	3.33	5.83
1915	97.02	.18	2.80	96.62	.30	3.08	96.27	.25	3.48
1916	97.19	.19	2.62	98.02	1.42	.56	95.94	.54	3.52
1917	98.32	.19	1.49	97.93	.77	1.30	96.9	.2	2.9

Since the inauguration of the school Medical Department or Clinic in 1911, the following table shows the number of children attended to by the School Nurse daily at the Clinic, at their homes and in the Schools, either for attention to minor ailments or following up, *i.e.* to ensure that treatment is obtained where defects are found.

There is also shown the number of children seen by the School Medical Inspector, in the mornings or on Friday afternoons.

CASES SEEN BY THE SCHOOL NURSE.

Year	At Clinic	In the homes	In School	By School Medical Inspector
1911	936	531	116	509
1912	1702	1341	333	1009
1913	2264	1305	359	1282
1914	4043	1133	296	971
1915	4215	1221	219	791
1916	4144	1312	219	672
1917	6891	1240	230	1697

These cases show the vast amount of work carried out by the School Nurse, and the Committee are aware how the work has outgrown the accommodation at the present buildings.

REMOVAL OF TONSILS AND ADENOIDS.

In 1911 arrangements were made with the Torbay Hospital Authorities for the examination and treatment of enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids.

The numbers so treated have been :—	1911	10 cases
	1912	18 „
	1913	23 „
	1914	24 „
	1915	43 „
	1916	46 „
	1917	57 „

Our own observation and the evidence of the teachers and parents as to the benefit arising from these operations, has greatly impressed us. Children so suffering have a vacant look, and, probably through deafness, are unable to benefit from the education provided and so become backward in their work. After operation this state of things is entirely changed.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There are at present eighteen children showing signs of Tubercular disease of some form or other, these are periodically examined by Dr. Ward, the County Tuberculosis Officer, and only such cases as he permits and are of non-infectious character attend school. Dr. Ward also notifies me of all children who come to school from houses where cases of Consumption are, and these are noted as special cases for frequent examination.

TREATMENT OF DEFECTIVE VISION.

From the accompanying table, the yearly number of children treated by Dr. MacKenzie for defective vision and eye disease is seen. It may be taken as assured that all children for whom glasses are prescribed are furnished with them, either by their parents or by grants from the funds of the Children's Care Committee. Much attention is however necessary to see that those having glasses wear them, and that those that become broken are repaired.

Year.	Number of children examined whose sight was ample for school purposes.	No. glasses ordered.	Examination not completed for various reasons.	Eyes seriously diseased.	Total
1908	19	86	1	1	107
1909	16	97	2	4	119
1910	43	128	6	6	183
1911	21	119	4	2	146
1912	49	142	3	1	195
1913	54	102	1	2	159
1914	37	118	5	1	161
1915	36	99	4	5	144
1916	31	113	1	1	146
1917	43	136	0	2	181

DENTAL TREATMENT.

The following table shows the yearly amount of work done in this department and speaks for itself. The result will be more apparent in the future, and many persons will have reason to be thankful to the Committee for their foresight in providing dental treatment. Not only are teeth preserved but much ill-health prevented.

Year.	Inspec- tions.	Fill- ings.	Dress- ings.	Extrac- tions.	Total operations	Advice to parents.	Cases for extractions
1911	490	446	32	—	478	—	—
1912	830	732	56	—	788	—	—
1913	676	667	63	426	1156	—	not recorded
1914	721	849	59	939	1847	—	not recorded
1915	780	802	120	1171	2093	28	543
1916	950	933	78	1526	2537	85	785
1917	1121	867	86	1715	2668	108	1015

I think the above shows that Medical Inspection is being carried out in a comprehensive manner, and that cases requiring medical treatment are followed up and dealt with.

Attached are the reports of the School Medical Inspector, the Ophthalmic Surgeon and the School Dental Surgeon for the year 1917. I also attach the report of the Children's Care Committee, who in every way, back up your Officers with money and advice in their efforts to alleviate distress, and obtain treatment for cases of physical disablement.

I have again to thank the members of the Education Committee for their invariable help and co-operation and to my colleagues for their ever ready assistance.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. DUNLOP.

GENTLEMEN

I have once more the honour of submitting to you this the Tenth Annual Report on the Medical Inspection of the Children attending the Public Elementary Schools of the Borough. School routine inspection, etc. has been carried out in its entirety and on the lines laid down by the Board of Education.

A larger number of children have been seen during the routine inspections during 1917 than in the previous year.

In 1916, the ordinary cases inspected numbered 1256, specials 12.

In 1917, ordinary cases inspected numbered 1440, specials 28, and ailing 1633 (which latter include re-examination).

The Schools have been revisited, with the object of examining those pupils about to leave, together with those who had been absent, through evasion or otherwise, during the ordinary course of inspection, together with special cases.

The health of the children examined, except for a slight increase in the number of cases where the standard of nutrition was below normal, was on the whole satisfactory.

Parents were present at the inspections to the extent of 34% this year; 37% were present in 1916; and 41% were present in 1915. That the exigencies of the times might be a factor in accounting for this diminution in the attendance of parents is comprehensible.

In reviewing the work carried out at the School Clinics, together with that at the schools during the year, I may here reiterate the statement in former reports that the services of the School Nurse, Miss Hughes, are a manifestation of her capability in all pertaining to same. Her work at the Clinic has increased by leaps and bounds annually since her inception into the School Service of the Borough.

Needless to state, I am indebted to her for the valuable aid rendered me. During the year she has dealt with 6,891 cases of minor ailments. She paid 208 visits to the schools, and 1,107 to the homes of the children.

I desire to express my indebtedness to the Teachers in the various schools for their invariable courtesy and also my thanks to the other officials in the Department for their ever ready co-operation, as well as to the Inspector of the N.S.P.C.C.

During inspections, only those children requiring immediate treatment are referred to the Dental Surgeon.

Other cases are examined at the schools and dealt with in turn (*vide* Dental Report pp. 13 and 14).

Similarly, as regard eye cases (*vide* Report School Oculist, p. 17).

During the year, the School Nurse and I have seen together each week morning and on Friday afternoons a large number of children who are thoroughly examined. If necessary, they are referred to their own practitioner afterwards. Notes are made on each card. The total seen was 1,633, which of course includes re-examinations.

Cases of infectious Disease previously excluded are examined prior to their return to school and a certificate furnished.

I may here add that the notifications furnished to us by the Teachers of the various schools are valuable assets in the procedure of our work. Our relations have always been of a harmonious character.

Owing to the great increase in the work at the S. M. Department, the accommodation has become quite inadequate, and the Committee contemplate obtaining larger premises.

It is satisfactory to note that the parents take full advantage of the Clinic for consultations and, where urgent, of treatment also.

A register is kept, giving time of admittance of Scholars at the School Clinic, and their names are entered on sheets, which are forwarded to the teachers at the expiration of each month, with a view to calculation of grant for the attendance for the children.

ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION.

The total number examined is set out in table (Table I) following. The special cases have been examined repeatedly during the year :—

TABLE I.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN INSPECTED, 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1917.

A "Code" Groups B. Group other than "Code" X.

	Entrants.						Leavers.						Intermediate Group (other than 8 years) (2)	Special Cases. (3)	Re-examinations (i.e. No. of children re-examined (4)
	Intermediate Group						Other Ages.								
	3	4	5	6	Other Ages.	Total.	8	12	13	14	Other Ages.	Total.	Grand Total.		
Age ..															
Boys ..	88	65	47	25	28	253	123	158	35	0	—	316	569	9	9
Girls ..	86	75	57	27	39	284	157	145	50	0	—	352	636	19	19
Totals ..	174	140	104	52	67	537	280	303	85	0	—	668	1205	28	28

Total number of Children examined	..	1440 (excluding special cases).
Parents present in case of boys, numbered	133	44.93 per cent.
" " " girls, "	163	55.07
Total number of parents present	296	"

TABLE OF AVERAGE HEIGHTS AND WEIGHTS.

Age period ..	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Other Ages.	Totals.
Boys— No. examined	88	65	47	25	56	140	19	20	43	158	35		—	
Boys { Height	3ft. 1.13	3ft. 3.17	3ft. 5.29	3ft. 7.20	3ft. 10.0	3ft. 10.8	4ft. 1.21	4ft. 2.96	4ft. 4.93	4ft. 6.69	4ft. 9.88		—	
Boys { Weight	2st. 6.40	2st. 7.61	2st. 12.79	2st. 13.19	3st. 6.12	3st. 8.14	3st. 12.88	4st. 3.54	4st. 8.37	5st. 0.36	6st. 1.9		—	
Girls { Height	3ft. 0.83	3ft. 2.53	3ft. 5.08	3ft. 6.82	3ft. 9.34	3ft. 10.17	4ft. 0.84	4ft. 3.83	4ft. 6.10	4ft. 7.57	4ft. 8.83		—	
Girls { Weight	2st. 4.78	2st. 7.03	2st. 11.63	3st. 0.75	3st. 3.83	3st. 5.42	3st. 10.35	4st. 2.60	4st. 11.14	5st. 2.47	5st. 11.37		—	
Girls— No. examined	86	75	57	27	53	182	14	10	45	145	50		—	
Totals ..														

GREENWOOD'S AVERAGES (BASED ON OVER 800,000 OBSERVATIONS).

Boys { Height	3ft. 2.63	3ft. 4.68	3ft. 6.83	3ft. 9.04	3ft. 11.39	4ft. 1.18	4ft. 2.84	4ft. 4.98	4ft. 6.88	4ft. 8.07	4ft. 10.16	5ft. 0.72	—
Boys { Weight	2st. 3.77	2st. 6.68	2st. 10.24	3st. 0.4	3st. 4.0	3st. 7.90	3st. 12.35	4st. 2.41	4st. 8.66	4st. 13.40	5st. 4.00	6st. 0.14	—
Girls { Height	3ft. 2.39	3ft. 4.44	3ft. 6.53	3ft. 8.76	3ft. 10.94	4ft. 0.71	4ft. 2.60	4ft. 5.01	4ft. 7.48	4ft. 8.81	4ft. 10.93	5ft. 0.26	—
Girls { Weight	2st. 2.98	2st. 5.74	2st. 9.24	2st. 12.93	3st. 1.55	3st. 6.09	3st. 10.69	4st. 1.52	4st. 9.86	5st. 0.37	5st. 8.11	6st. 0.24	—

CLOTHING AND FOOTGEAR.—With respect to clothing, it was found that out of the 1,440 children examined, the total found below normal amounts to 12 cases ($\cdot 8\%$). No case of footwear defect was observed.

NUTRITION.—Notwithstanding the circumstance under which the community have to carry on, the standard of nutrition in the children is on the whole sound. The cases of malnutrition amounted to 41 ($2\cdot 8\%$) referred for special treatment, 104 ($7\cdot 2\%$) were kept under observation, being only a trifle short of the normal condition.

CLEANLINESS OF HEAD—Pediculosis.—It is regrettable that so many parents seem indifferent in this respect. At the routine inspections 47 ($3\cdot 2\%$) cases were found to be of a gross nature and thus required immediate exclusion; 57 ($3\cdot 9\%$) mild cases were kept under strict supervision. In all 7% of the aggregate numbers examined were cases of uncleanness.

Tact in combination with stringency impress most mothers or guardians to do their duty. Periodical prosecutions in the case of incorrigible ones eradicate their apathy to a marked degree.

CLEANLINESS OF BODY :—Only five cases of this kind ($\cdot 3\%$) came under observation as against $\cdot 6\%$ for 1916, a marked improvement on the figures for 1916. They were referred for treatment.

SKIN DISEASES.—Impetigo is the one of common occurrence and during the past year has been very widespread. In the course of routine inspection, 39 cases came under observation, viz.:—12 cases of impetigo; 11 cases of ringworm of head and 4 of the body; 7 scabies; and 5 of other disease. All these were referred for treatment.

As elsewhere, the prevalence of that most infectious and troublesome ailment Scabies was attributed to the presence of troops billeted throughout the Borough. Directly or indirectly, contact is, of course, the accountable factor for its being widespread. A great number of children had to be excluded from School for this cause. About 120 baths were administered at the School Medical Department.

VISION.—Cases of visual acuteness in one or both eyes amounting to 6/12 or below it are referred the Ophthalmic Surgeon, Dr. McKenzie (*vide* report of Oculist on p. 15). There were 99 cases referred for treatment and 6 kept under observation.

Cases of neglecting to wear the glasses prescribed or to see the Oculist, are inquired into by the School Nurse and School visitors periodically.

EXTERNAL EYE DISEASES.—On routine inspection during 1917, there were 3 cases of blepharitis. These were referred for treatment.

EAR DISEASES.—At the routine inspection four cases of Otorrhœa was found and were referred for treatment.

TEETH.—(*Vide* Dental Report on p. 14).

ENLARGED TONSILS AND ADENOIDS, MOUTH BREATHERS.—The risks incurred through omission of treatment of these conditions are manifold. Parents have of late years adapted themselves to the radical line of treatment, and the results are excellent.

The number of cases of Tonsils and Adenoids referred for treatment during 1917, are as follows:—

TONSILS	35	ADENOIDS	17
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The number of cases kept under observation are:—

TONSILS	29	ADENOIDS	3
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The number of MOUTH BREATHERS is, of course, equal to that of ADENOIDAL cases, *i.e.*, 17 cases.

Subjects of nasal obstruction are MOUTH BREATHERS. This gives rise to continual infection of the tonsils, the air inhaled orally, being laden with microbes especially in impoverished dwellings.

DEFECTIVE SPEECH.—In all 6 cases were observed on routine inspection, and are kept under observation. Stammering and lipping are the ones invariably met with.

Those who lisp are reputed to be less intelligent than stammerers. Repetition of nursery rhymes may help to minimise the degree of lipping. Speaking slowly and quietly are the main essentials in the riddance or lessening of stammering (more correctly stuttering).

HEART AND CIRCULATION:—Functional cases of heart disease amounted to 38 (2·5%); organic to 2 (·15); and cases of anæmia to 6 (·4%).

Parents, guardians and teachers are advised. The former are exhorted to consult their own practitioners. Such cases are marked up as “specials,” and so are re-examined periodically.

LUNGS.—During 1917 on routine inspection only one definite case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was found, four suspected were referred to the County Tuberculosis Officer. Eighteen other cases of a tubercular character are periodically examined by this Officer, and only such cases as are of a non-infectious character, and with his consent attend school.

All children residing in homes where tuberculosis has been notified to the Medical Officer of Health are regarded as special cases and kept under observation.

NERVOUS SYSTEM.—There was one case of chorea observed and referred for treatment.

Nine cases of other nervous affections, mainly those of infantile paralysis, were found.

Only a few cases of defective mental condition were observed, and were referred for further examination by the School Medical Officer. Cases were reported on and sent to Starcross Institution for Mental Defectives.

Obstinate cases of epilepsy are recommended for treatment and educational instruction in epileptic home.

NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.—Glands. The climatic conditions retard the progress of the tubercle bacillus in these cases. Hence the small fraction recorded here. One case was observed and referred for treatment. They are kept under observation at all times.

DEFORMITIES.—Seven cases were observed on routine inspection, and two were referred for treatment. And 14 others were kept under observation.

RINGWORM.—The cases include a large number outside those observed during routine inspection. Washable bonnets or caps are insisted upon during school hours to prevent the spread of infection. Very obstinate cases are X-rayed at the Torbay Hospital. When hairs are free of spores on microscopic examination, bonnets, etc. can be discarded. Those seen on routine inspection were :— Ringworm of head, 11 referred for treatment, and that of body 4 also referred for treatment.

I am Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

L. HYNES,

Assistant School Medical Officer.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

*For the year ending December 22nd, 1917.
together with some Statistics of the work
since the commencement.*

EXTRACTIONS.

The total has now reached 1,715, as against 1,171 for 1916, and the number of extraction cases was 1,015 for 1917, and 785 for 1916—of this 1,015 cases about 500 were “casual” cases.

FILLINGS.

867 fillings (all permanent) and 86 dressings and scalings were completed in the year.

ROUTINE EXAMINATIONS

1,121 as against 950 for 1917— This does not include the 500 casual cases mentioned above under extractions. So that considerably over 1,200 children were treated for either fillings or extractions.

AGE LIMIT STILL RISING

Whereas the Deven County Clinic limit for 1916, was 6 to 10 years, we have now reached the age up to 13 years.

INCREASE PER SCHOOL.

The following instances are examples:—

Homelands previous examination	170 cases,	now	245
Cockington	„	„	85
Babbacombe	„	„	94
St. Mary-Church	„	„	154

And so on with all the schools.

TOTAL OPERATIONS.

Extractions	-	-	-	1715
Dressings	-	-	-	86
Fillings	-	-	-	867
				<hr/>
Total				2668
				<hr/>

ADVICE TO PARENTS.

Total 103 as against 85 for 1916.

I have to thank all the staff and especially Miss Francis Hughes, to whose tact and interest our refusals are so low (being one quarter of some clinics). I might mention that local anæsthetics are used in ALL extraction cases instead of *one in twelve* as in some clinics. The children have no dread of operations as the table below proves.

Another interesting point is that I found more sound mouths in Mary-Church and Babbacombe than in the lower situated areas of the town.

I am,

Most truly yours,

LUDLOW STRANGWAYS, L.D.S, N.C.S., ENG.

TABLE SHOWING PROGRESS OF WORK PER YEAR.

Year.	Inspections.	Fillings.	Dressings.	Extractions.	Total Operations.	Advice to Parents.	Cases for Extraction.
1911	490	446	32	—	478	—	—
1912	830	732	56	—	788	—	—
1913	676	667	63	426	1156	—	not recorded
1914	721	849	59	939	1847	—	not recorded
1915	780	802	120	1171	2093	28	543
1916	950	933	78	1526	2537	85	785
1917	1121	867	86	1715	2668	103	1015

Report of Dr. McKenzie.**SCHOOL OCULIST.**

The examination of the children has continued in a satisfactory manner, there has however, been an alteration in the completion of the work during the year. When it was first instituted only children with defective sight or apparent defective sight were sent to me, all inflammatory conditions were excluded, now the scope has been extended to include both defective sight and all inflammatory conditions of the eyes. During the year 1917, 144 children were examined for the first time and there were 310 total attendance, of these 144 children, 40 children had sight sufficient for school purposes and glasses were not required. In 81 cases, glasses were ordered, and in the remaining 23 cases, there was some inflammatory disease. All these 23 cases however, retained ample sight when the inflammatory subsided, to be taught in the ordinary way, that is to say in no case was the sight so reduced as to require special means of education.

TORQUAY CHILDREN'S CARE COMMITTEE.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1917.

One hundred and eight cases were dealt with during the year, compared with 101 in 1916. Assistance was given as follows:—

	1915	1916	1917
Boots given free	5 pairs	7 pairs	9 pairs
Boots (part payment to be made by parents)	35 pairs	37 pairs	26 pairs
Boots (full cost to be repaid by parents)	24 pairs	34 pairs	45 pairs
	<u>64 pairs</u>	<u>78 pairs</u>	<u>80 pairs</u>
Assistance towards purchase of crutches	1 case	—	1 case
Child maintained in Rosehill Hospital	1 case (10 weeks)	2 cases (9 & 7 weeks)	1 case (2 weeks)
Milk supplied free	8 cases	4 cases	6 cases
Milk and eggs supplied free	—	—	1 case
Virol, Scott's Emulsion, Kepler's Extract	11 bottles	9 bottles	6 bottles
Meals supplied	2 cases	1 case	—
Referred to National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children	3 cases	2 cases	5 cases
Referred to Relieving Officer	—	—	2 cases
Special Surgical Boot	1 case	1 case	1 case
Medicine supplied	2 cases	4 cases	3 cases
Sanitary Inspector notified as to state of house	—	—	2 cases

Nine meetings of the full Committee and nine of the Sub-Committee were held during the year.

Though there is only a slight increase in the total number of pairs of boots provided for necessitous children, cases in which part payment was required from parents fell from 37 to 26, whilst the number in which the full cost had to be repaid rose from 34 to 45. This reflects the experience of the Committee during the year, namely, that though willing in many instances to bear the cost of boots for their children, parents are now, owing to the very abnormal prices, often unable to make the outlay at the time. An examination of the accounts shews the following rise in the cost of boots purchased by the Committee:—

In 1915,	64 pairs of boots were purchased,	average cost	5s 0½d.
„ 1916,	78 ditto	ditto	7s. 1d.
„ 1917,	80 ditto	ditto	9s. 3¼d.

The following table shews that the percentage of cost repaid by parents is steadily rising:—

Total spent on boots and clothing		Repaid by parents, etc.
1914	£19 2s. 5d.	£4 14s. 9d. = 24%
1915	16 2s. 9d.	7 13s. 1d. = 48%
1916	27 10 7d.	13 0 6d. = 47%
1917	37 3s. 11d.	20 9s. 8d. = 55%

EYESIGHT.

The operation of the Eyesight Account is shewn by the following statement:—

	1915	1916	1917
Parents to pay whole cost of spectacles	18	9	11
Free grant from Fund	9	6	17
Grant of part cost	63	38	33
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	90	53	61
Supplied by Board of Guardians	—	—	1
New lens supplied, or frames repaired	38	39	33

There were 10 cases outstanding at the end of the year. It will be seen that the number of instances in which spectacles were provided free of cost rose from 6 to 17. In many of these cases it appeared desirable that further information should be obtained, but independent enquiry supported the recommendation of the Head Teachers, whose knowledge of the childrens' home conditions enables them to gauge pretty accurately the necessities of the case, and to advise accordingly.

The expenditure on spectacles and repairs which in 1916 was £5 17s. 0d., increased to £7 16s. 9d., leaving a balance in hand on that account of only £3 5s. 0d. This will not be sufficient for the coming year, so that it will be necessary to ask for a contribution from the Education (Medical Service) Account, which the Committee were able to manage without in 1917.

During the year the applications for supply of medicinal foods such as Cod Liver Oil and Malt Extract, Parrishs' Chemical Food, etc., by the School Medical Officer, induced the Committee to enquire whether these could not be provided by the Education Authority as part of the work of the School Medical Service. The Board of Education replied that they would sanction such a course, as an experiment, under certain stated conditions, and the Local Education Authority agreed to put a scheme into operation on the terms named by the Board. This will therefore probably relieve the Care Committee of all expense under that head for some time.

The Balance Sheet discloses a credit balance at the end of the year of £11 5s. 7d., but this result has only been achieved by an urgent appeal in the Press, made with the co-operation of the Mayor, who, with the Mayoress liberally supported the plea. The special donations received during December amounted to £15, so that it is evident that without this welcome support the Account would have shown a deficit.

To all who have so kindly contributed the Committee return their warmest thanks, and they are grateful also to those who in other ways, by investigating cases reported, by arranging for the purchase of boots and the receipt of parents' contributions, by attending to the daily provision of milk, etc., when authorised, and by keeping a watchful eye over the necessities of the children, have assisted in carrying on the work during the past year.

TABLE II.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND IN THE COURSE OF
MEDICAL INSPECTION IN 1917.

DEFECT OR DISEASE.				CODE GROUPS.		SPECIALS.	
				Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment.	Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment.
(1)				(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
SKIN	Malnutrition	..	..	41	104		
	Uncleanliness—						
	Head	..	..	47	57		
	Body	..	..	5	25		
	Ringworm—						
	Head	..	..	11	—		
	Body	..	..	4	—		
	Scabies	..	..	7	—		
	Impetigo	..	..	12	—		
	Other Disease	..	..	5	—		
EYE	Defective Vision and Squint	..	..	99	2		
	External Eye Disease	..	..	3	—		
EAR	Defective Hearing	..	..	4	6		
	Ear Disease	..	..	3	1		
TEETH	Dental Disease (<i>vide</i> Dental Report, pp.)						
NOSE AND THROAT	Enlarged Tonsils	..	..	35	29		
	Adenoids	..	..	17	3		
	Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	..	..	—	—
	Defective Speech	..	..	5	1		
HEART AND CIRCULATION	Heart Disease—						
	Organic	..	..	2	4	—	1
	Functional	..	..	11	27	1	—
	Anæmia	..	..	6	4	—	—
LUNGS	Pulmonary Tuberculosis—						
	Definite	..	..	—	—	1	—
	Suspected	..	..	—	4	—	26
	Chronic Bronchitis	..	..	—	—
	Other Disease	..	..	2	4		
NERVOUS SYSTEM	Epilepsy	..	..	—	—
	Chorea	..	..	1	—		
	Other Disease	..	..	2	7		
	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis—						
	Glands	..	..	1	—	1	
	Bones and Joints	..	..	—	—
	Other forms	..	..	—	—
	Rickets	..	..	—	14		
	Deformities	..	..	2	5		
	Other Defects or Diseases	..	..	15	16		

TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF CHILDREN DURING 1917.

CONDITION.	From previous years.	New.	Total.	No. of defects for which no report is available	No. of defects treated.	Remedied.	Improved.	Unchanged.	No. of defects not treated.	Under observation.	Under treatment.
Cleanliness of Head -	—	45	45	—	—	45	—	—	—	—	—
" Body -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Adenoids -	22	55	77	—	—	57	—	—	57	20	—
Enlarged Tonsils -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sore Throat -	—	17	17	—	—	17	—	—	—	—	—
External Eye Disease -	2	22	24	—	24	23	—	—	—	—	1
Ear Disease -	4	33	37	—	37	35	—	—	—	—	2
Heart -	7	6	13	—	10	3	—	—	—	3	—
Lungs -	—	17	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15
Nervous System—Chorea -	1	0	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Skin—Scabies -	—	51	51	—	51	51	—	—	—	—	—
Ringworm -	29	119	148	—	148	106	—	—	—	—	42
Impetigo -	—	241	241	—	241	241	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—Non-Pulm.	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Speech -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mental Condition -	1	0	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fits -	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vision -	ee Oculist	Report	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Defective Hearing -	1	4	5	—	3	3	—	—	—	1	—
Injuries -	—	34	34	—	34	34	—	—	—	—	—
Septic Wounds -	—	237	237	—	237	237	—	—	—	—	—
Burns and Scalds -	—	11	11	—	11	11	—	—	—	—	—
Enlarged Glands of Neck -	2	25	27	—	27	25	—	—	—	—	2
Eczema -	—	14	14	—	14	14	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous -	—	209	209	—	209	209	—	—	—	—	—
Total -	69	1153	1312	—	1147	1122	—	—	57	24	65

Infirmary

TABLE III.—NUMERICAL RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN
IN THE AREA IN 1917.

			Boys	Girls	Total	
BLIND (including partially blind).		Attending Public Elementary Schools .. Attending Certified Schools for the Blind .. Not at School	3	—	3	
DEAF AND DUMB (including partially deaf).		Attending Public Elementary Schools .. Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf .. Not at School	—	1	1	
MENTALLY DEFICIENT	Feeble- Minded.	Attending Public Elementary Schools .. Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children Notified to the Local (Control) Authority during the year Not at School	3 1	— —	3 1	
		Embeciles	At School Not at School	— 2	— —	— 2
			Idiots			
		EPILEPTICS.		Attending Public Elementary Schools .. Attending Certified Schools for Epileptics .. Not at School	2	—	2
	PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVES	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Attending Public Elementary Schools .. Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children Not at School	2 8	2 5	4 13
			Other forms of Tuberculosis	Attending Public Elementary Schools .. Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children Not at School	1	1	2
Oripples other than Tubercular		Attending Public Elementary Schools .. Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children Not at School		4 1	5 —	9 1
		DULL OR BACKWARD*		Retarded two years Retarded three years	4	1	5

* Judged according to age and standard.

TABLE V. INSPECTION, TREATMENT & CARE OF CHILDREN
DURING 1917.

(1) The total number of children medically inspected (whether code group, special or ailing child.)	1440 (Routine inspection) 28 (Special case)
(2) The number of children in (1) suffering from defects (other than uncleanliness or defective clothing or footgear) who require to be kept under observation (but not referred for treat- ment.)	258 (Exclusive of Teeth)
(3) The number of children in (1) who are referred for treatment (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc.)	291
(4) The number of children in (3) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc.)	211